(b) if so, whether a large number of mineral water packs are still available without ISI mark and Government have failed to check its production and sale in the market;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the action Government have taken/propose to take to ensure sale of only ISI mark mineral water in the country, particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) At present, ISI mark for mineral water is not compulsory. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) does not carry out any checks on purity and quality of mineral water marketed by various companies in the country except for those industrial units holding licence to mark its product with BIS Certifications Standard Mark i.e. ISI Mark. However, in order to ensure sale of only ISI mark mineral water in the country for maintaining quality of this product, the Government has issued a draft notification in the Gazette inviting comments/suggestions from the public *vide* GSR No. 808 (E) dated 10-12-1999 proposing to cover mineral water under mandatory certifications of the BIS.

Transfer of polluting technologies by Developed countries

1692. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the World Congress on Sustainable Development in Calcutta, had stated that developed countires were transferring highly polluting technologies to the developing world;

(b) if so, what highly polluting technologies have been transferred to India; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had stated that the transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies from industrialised to the developing countries had come to be seen as a major element of global strategies to achieve sustainable development but sometimes some industrialised countries were transferring highly polluting technolgies to the developing countries. Polluting technologies are not allowed to be transferred to India in case of inudustrial projects which require environmental

clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Mangrovers Along India's Coastline

1693. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the Space Research Organisation on the condition of India's coastline;

(b) whether Mangroves are considered essential to maintain coastline;

(c) whether there has been a serious depletion of mangroves from the different coastal areas of the country; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made by Government to restore mangroves in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) According to the Mangrove Atlas of India Published in August 1999 by Space Application Centre (Indian Space Research Organisation), Indian harbours some of the best mangrove swamps in the world. These are located in the deltas of rivers such as the Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna as well as the Andaman and Nicobar ground of islands and the Gulf of Kachchh. The total area covered by mangroves in India is estimated at about 4460 sq.km. Mangroves are essential to stabilize shore lines and the banks of rivers and estuaries providing them with some protection from tidal waves, ocean currents and storm surges. Mangroves are under pressure due to increasing population, development of aquaculture, salt pans and ports, location of waste effluent disposal sites and development of various industries along the coastline.

(d) Realising the ecological and economic significance of mangroves and threats faced by this ecosystem, Ministry of Environment and Forests launched a Scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in 1986. On the recommendations of the National Committee, 15 mangrove areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management. The scheme covers eco-restoration and afforestation, protection, ecodevelopmental activities and education and awareness related to mangroves. Financial assistance is extended to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for implementation of Management Action Plans in identified mangrove areas. State level steering Committees have been constituted to oversee the progress of implementation of these Management Action Plans.